

Serving on a State Council for Developmental Disabilities



As a Council member, you have important responsibilities....

- You will exercise Duty of Care
- You will fulfill the fiduciary responsibility as a member of 'governance'
- You will implement the Spirit and intent of the DD Act

Duty of Care means

- Members of the Council should exercise reasonable care in the decision making process, using appropriate business judgment.

Fulfilling the fiduciary responsibility

- Fiduciary means to protect the public trust.

A member of governance

- Governance is the role you have assumed accepting the position of Council member. The Council members 'govern' the activities of the Council.

Implementing the Spirit and Intent of - The DD Act

Critical to the success of the principles of the DD Act is the concept of a strong, independent and vigorous organization run by and responsive to people with disabilities, functioning in the public trust.

DD Act PURPOSE

- to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote

What is my job as a Council Member?

- Develop and approve a State Plan
- Listen to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and other stakeholders
- Serve on Council committees as needed
- Avoid situations that may appear as conflict of interest
- Assist in filling Council member vacancies

Develop and Approve State Plan –

- The state plan is a tool which ensures that staff, management and governance are moving in the same direction.
- The state plan helps focus agency resources and activities.

State Plan continued

- The state plan is a shared vision of the organization's future.
- The state plan is a tool to measure results and outcomes

An effective state plan -

- describes ***how*** the Council will grow and expand to meet the changing social/political environment and the unmet needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in their state.

An effective state plan cont'd

- looks at its future needs related to staffing, organizational design and technological expansion

Child-Care Related Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic-change activities that result in families of children with developmental disabilities having access to and use of child-care services, including before-school, after-school, and out-of-school services,, in their communities.



Early Intervention Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities provided to individuals (birth to 9) and their families to enhance the development of their potential; and the capacity of families to meet the special needs of the individuals.



Education Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and system change activities that result in individuals with DD being able to access appropriate supports and modifications when necessary, to maximize their educational potential, to benefit from lifelong educational activities, and to be integrated and included in all facets of student life.



Employment Related Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in individuals with DD acquiring, retaining, or advancing in paid employment, including supported employment or self-employment in integrated settings in a community.



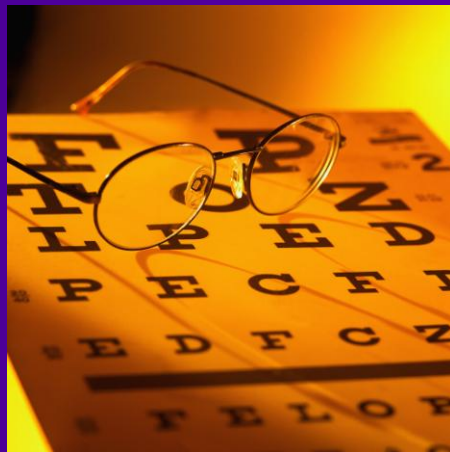
Formal and Informal Community Supports

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in individuals with DD having access to and use of other services available and offered to individuals in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.



Health-Related Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in individuals with DD having access to and use of coordinated health, dental, mental health, and other human and social services, including prevention activities, in their communities.



Housing-Related Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in individuals have access to and use of housing and housing supports and services in their communities, including assistance related to renting, owning, or modifying an apartment or home.



Recreation-Related Activities

Advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in individuals with DD having access to and use of recreational, leisure, and social activities in their communities.



Inclusion

Means the acceptance and encouragement of the presence and participation of individuals with DD, by individuals without disabilities, in social, educational, work, and community activities, that enables individuals with DD to

- have friendships and relationships;
- live in homes close to community resources;
- enjoy full access to and active participation in community activities;
- take full advantage of their integration into the same community resources as others.

Program evaluation is part of strategic planning

- An important part of a state plan is evaluating not only how but *how well* the Council has provided services in the past.
- The program performance reports are an important tool in assessing what the Council has done in the past.

Listening to the public is part of program evaluation

- Members of the Council are in an excellent position to gather information about the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- They are also in a position to assess the image of the agency – what is the community perception about the Council.

Council Committees

- Are an effective way to help Council members/volunteers fulfill their responsibilities.

Words of caution

- Members of governance should only speak on behalf of the Council when authorized to do so consistent with its policies.
- When speaking on behalf of the agency Council members must represent the organization's interests and not their own.

Appearance of conflict of interest

- Members of governance must avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- They should never use the organization as a platform for personal benefit or gain.
- A perceived conflict is often more damaging than a real one since it is much harder to resolve.

Fill vacancies

- The DD Act has specific requirements about Council membership.
- Unfilled vacancies may jeopardize the Council's compliance with its funding source.
- Vacancies mean that a particular point of view is missing from any discussion.

Council members stay informed

- Keep up-to-date on developments in the disability field

Council members should

- Prepare for and attend Council meetings and committee meetings
- Ask questions
- Take responsibility and follow-through on a given assignment
- Open doors in the community
- Evaluate yourself

Councils members should possess

- Honesty
- Sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views
- Friendliness
- Responsiveness
- A patient approach
- Personal integrity
- Concern for the Council's development
- Sense of humor

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